

A large, irregular orange paint splatter serves as the background for the top half of the page. The splatter has several long, thin drips extending outwards, particularly towards the top and right. The text is overlaid on this splatter.

arts for all

5th
year review

**LOS ANGELES COUNTY
REGIONAL BLUEPRINT
FOR ARTS EDUCATION**

May 2007

In September 2002, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors adopted *Arts for All: Los Angeles County Regional Blueprint for Arts Education*, a ten-year strategic plan to restore arts education — in dance, music, theatre, and the visual arts — to the 1.7 million students in Los Angeles County's 80 school districts and Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE) classrooms. The *Arts for All* Executive Committee, with more than 100 partners and supported by the Los Angeles County Arts Commission, leads this effort. The initiative, now in its fifth year, has made great strides.

GOAL 1

Each of the 80 school districts in Los Angeles County and the Los Angeles County Office of Education classrooms enacts a policy, adopts a plan with timeline, and approves a budget to implement sequential K-12 arts education.

Impact on school districts

The emphasis of *Arts for All* is building the infrastructure in the County's school districts to support comprehensive, sequential arts education based on the California Visual and Performing Arts standards. The five critical success factors of this infrastructure are a board-adopted policy, implementation plan with timeline, district level arts coordinator, 5% district budget allocation, and at least a 400:1 ratio of students to credentialed arts teachers.



Artists-in-Residence from Angels Gate Cultural Center help students express themselves.

Starting in 2003-04, the *Arts for All* Executive Committee invited selected school districts to receive multi-year technical assistance, funded by the *Arts for All* Pooled Fund, to achieve the critical success factors through coaching provided by the California Alliance for Arts Education. Eighteen districts and the Los Angeles County Office of Education are now *Arts for All* districts. These districts represent 247,186 students (25% of the County public school population minus Los Angeles Unified School District). LAUSD has its own arts education plan launched prior to *Arts for All* and has made great progress.

New technical assistance model

In response to the historic arts education allocation from the state of California — \$27.6 million to L.A. County school districts and charter schools for the 2006-07 fiscal year with

strong indication that this funding will be ongoing — *Arts for All* recast its technical assistance model in the winter of 2006-07. All school districts that were not participants in *Arts for All* were offered a choice of three technical assistance options with corresponding subsidized costs, based on the level of service and the size of the school district.

Level 3/Personalized Coaching for Long-Range Planning provides personalized support for school districts to engage in a strategic process for long term arts education planning. This level provides districts with training in facilitation and consensus building, expert coaching over the course of 10 meetings to conduct a needs assessment, to develop and adopt an arts education policy, and to write and adopt a long-range (3-5 years) budgeted strategic plan. This level of service enables districts to develop a solid infrastructure that can sustain arts education overtime.

Level 2/Personalized Coaching for Short Term Planning provides personalized coaching for districts that have completed a needs assessment through the California County Superintendents Educational Services Association (CCSESA), the Model Arts Program (MAP) or similar initiative. This level provides expert coaching over the course of 5 meetings for districts to analyze the data from the needs assessment, to develop a policy, and to develop and adopt both a short term (1 1/2 - 2 years) plan for arts education and a short term spending plan for the state monies.

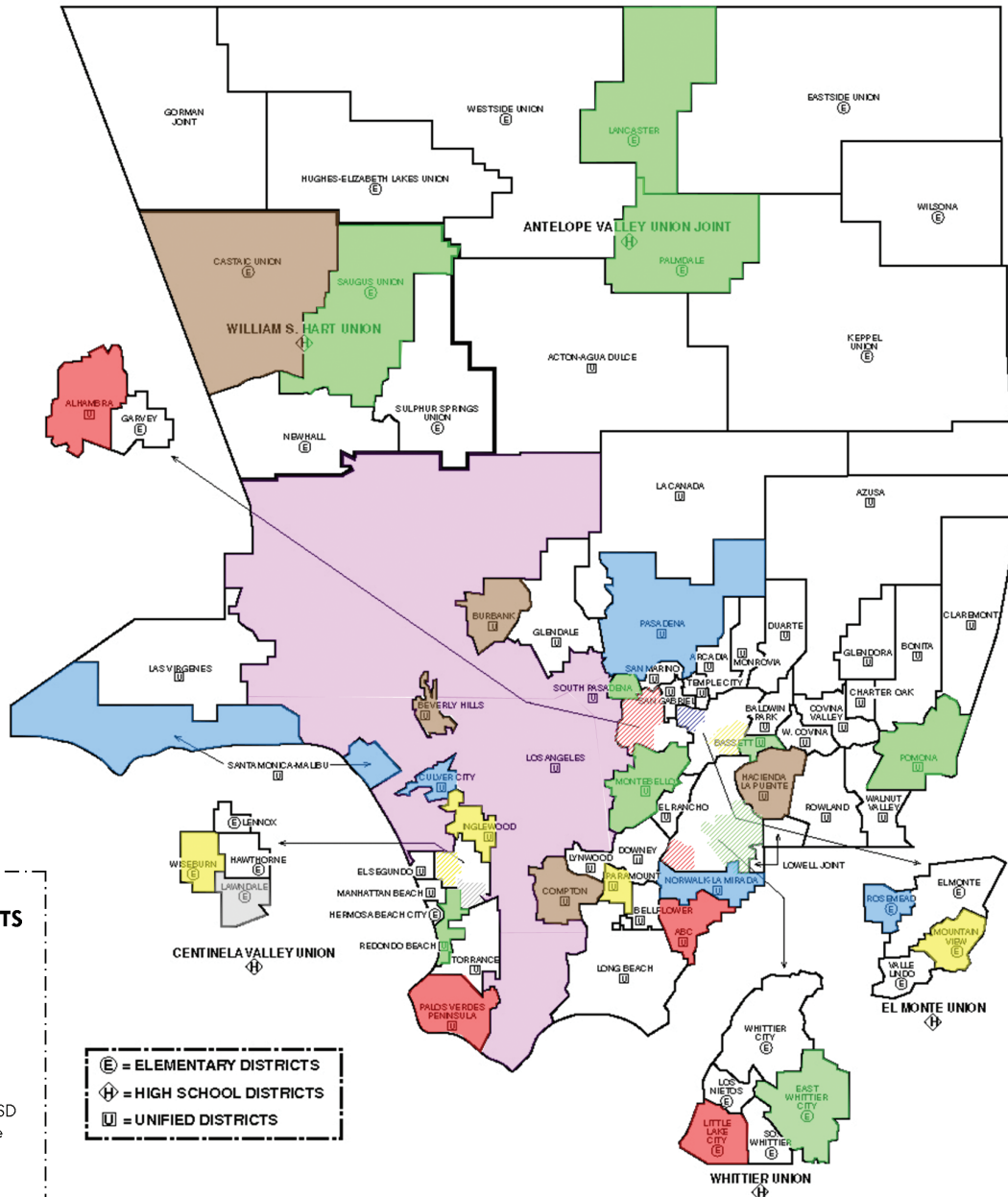
Level 1/Training for Short Term Planning guides district teams of 2-3 people through a 3-day training to develop the skills to create both a short term plan for arts education and a short term spending plan for the state monies. Specific topics covered by the training include the creation of a Community Arts Team, conducting a needs assessment to identify strengths and gaps, development of an arts education policy, strategic planning, and development of a phased, budgeted short term (1 1/2 - 2 years) implementation plan. This level of service also provides 2 hours of follow up consultations via phone and/or email.

Nine school districts have confirmed participation under the new technical assistance model for the 2007-08 school year: Bassett (Level 3), East Whittier City (Level 3), Lancaster Elementary (Level 2), Montebello (Level 3), Palmdale (Level 3), Pomona (Level 3), Redondo Beach (Level 3), South Pasadena (Level 3), and Saugus (Level 2).

With these additions, *Arts for All* is engaged in 28 of the County's 80 districts.

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ELEMENTARY, HIGH SCHOOL AND UNIFIED DISTRICTS LOS ANGELES COUNTY



ARTS FOR ALL SCHOOL DISTRICTS

1. ABC
2. Alhambra
3. Basset USD
4. Beverly Hill
5. Burbank
6. Castaic
7. Compton Unified
8. Culver City
9. East Whittier City SD
10. Hacienda La Puente
11. Inglewood Unified
12. LACOE
13. Lancaster SD
14. Little Lake
15. Montebello USD
16. Mountain View
17. Norwalk La Mirada
18. Palmdale SD
19. Palos Verdes
20. Paramount
21. Pasadena
22. Pomona USD
23. Redondo Beach USD
24. Rosemead
25. Santa Monica Malibu
26. Saugus Union SD
27. South Pasadena USD
28. Wiseburn

ARTS FOR ALL SCHOOL DISTRICTS

- 2003/2004 VANGUARD DISTRICTS
- 2004/2005
- 2005/2006
- 2006/2007
- 2007/2008 Multi-level districts

ADDITIONAL DISTRICTS PURSUING ARTS EDUCATION REFORM

- LAUSD—AS OF 2007, IN 7th YEAR OF 10 YEAR PLAN
- LAWNDALE—AS OF 2007, IN 2nd YEAR OF 5 YEAR PLAN PS ARTS AND THE HERB ALPERT FOUNDATION INITIATIVE

Growing number of arts coordinators

The arts coordinator position is integral to *Arts for All's* five-part strategy. Of the 19 current *Arts for All* districts, 13 now have arts coordinators in place or are in the process of reviewing candidates. The majority of these positions were a direct result of Pooled Fund support. Target provided seed money to the Compton USD to hire a district-level arts coordinator to guide the implementation of the district's comprehensive arts education plan. Similarly, The Rosalinde and Arthur Gilbert Foundation is helping to implement Hacienda La Puente USD's plan including hiring an arts coordinator. The Gilbert Foundation also gave matching money to support the hiring of an arts coordinator in ABC USD. All these grants are matched by district funds.

District Arts Coordinators

Alhambra: Lynn Snowden

Beverly Hills: Dana Berk

Burbank: Peggy Flynn

Castaic: Lisa Bloom

Compton: Lanette White

Culver City: Inez Bush

Hacienda La Puente: Barbara Ricchio

L.A. County Office of Education: Tina Vartanian

Palos Verdes Peninsula: Julie Beckman

Pasadena: Marshall Ayers

Rosemead: André Sauvageau

Santa Monica-Malibu: Tom Whaley

Artists-in-Residence Program launched

The Arts Commission launched a new component in support of *Arts for All* in 2007: its Artists-in-Residence Program. *Arts for All* districts receive funds to hire artists and arts organizations that are listed on the County's online arts education directory



The performers of Blue Palm provide training in physical and vocal skills through *Arts for All's* residency program.

www.LAArtsEd.org. The site features more than 200 programs that meet the state standards and have been vetted by a diverse panel of arts education experts.

Thus far, the program has reached more than 2,500 students in 31 schools, 26 of them on the elementary level. Artists are active in six L.A. County school districts — Alhambra, Burbank, Compton, Norwalk, Palos Verdes and Pasadena — and the classrooms operated by the Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE).

The Artists-in-Residence program is supported by \$170,000 in grants awarded to the Arts Commission from the National Endowment for the Arts and the Los Angeles County Productivity Investment Fund. The districts must match the funds received one-to-one.



Implementers and policy makers have sufficient tools, information, and professional development to achieve sequential K-12 arts education.

Tools & Resources component enhances LAArtsEd.org

In 2004 the Arts Commission launched the first online resource directory for arts education programs in the region — www.LAArtsEd.org — funded by Los Angeles County. In May 2007 the site expands with the addition of Tools & Resources.

The first phase of LAArtsEd.org was created to provide teachers and administrators with one-stop shopping for arts education programs that meet the California state content



standards for visual and performing arts and have been vetted by a panel of experts. Tools & Resources enhances the site's value by providing an online reference library dedicated to arts education.

Tools & Resources supports the needs of educators, community stakeholders and policy makers by providing centralized access to the tools and information necessary to achieve sequential K-12 arts education.

Information is accessible through a searchable database and highlights successful school districts, teachers, organizations and their excellent work at the local, state and national level. Content includes models of arts education policies, plans and budgets; arts coordinator job descriptions; and survey, assessment and strategic planning tools as well as arts education standards and curriculum development. The site also offers a forum to share best practices, pose questions to the field and create a continued community of learning, as well as a “Tip of the Week” about arts education.

Innovative training for artists in the classroom

In 2003 *Arts for All* began a program to increase the number of arts organizations and teaching artists offering standards-based programming to area schools. The program has trained local arts administrators and artists to use their talents in dance, theater, music and the visual arts to incorporate the arts in the core curriculum of school districts. Participants have learned the fundamentals of child development, explored effective teaching strategies and ways to serve varied learning styles, developed effective lesson plans and classroom management techniques, and learned to incorporate the arts within a variety of curriculum and interdisciplinary models. They also learn effective assessment strategies.

The program was deepened in 2006 and now participating artists have the opportunity to observe teaching artists in schools and have coaching and mentoring sessions with professional



Professional artists school-based training program

teaching artists. In the last phase of training, participants teach a six-week sequential arts education lesson to a class with a mentor artist observing and evaluating their performance.

To date, more than 400 artists have completed the program. Instructors for the program, based in the *Arts for All* Culver City Unified School District, are expert arts education professionals from the Armory Center for the Arts and the Music Center of Los Angeles County (key partners in *Arts for All*) as well as master teaching artists. Primary funding for the training, which is made available to participants at a fraction of its real cost, is provided by the Dana Foundation.

GOAL 3

In each of the 80 school districts, an active coalition of advocates will be mobilized to establish, sustain and support sequential K-12 arts education.

The *Arts for All* advocacy subcommittee has developed a strategic plan for arts education advocacy in Los Angeles County that will be carried out in partnership with Arts for L.A. A newly formed non-profit organization, Arts for L.A. is committed to increasing support, in all forms, for the arts and cultural life of Los Angeles. Key points of the advocacy plan include

Goals:

- Develop content and format for arts education advocacy materials
- Deliver advocacy information to the field
- Build an effective communications infrastructure
- Organize and coordinate media efforts
- Develop recognition award opportunities
- Empower existing arts education stakeholders
- Develop and orient coalitions in all L.A. County school districts
- Create alliances among municipal, school district and nonprofit arts organizations

Success indicators:

- Empowered local coalitions to influence and monitor elections and hiring
- Pro-active and responsive networked arts education coalitions in place
- Alignment and integration of municipal, school district and non-profits for mutual arts education goals
- Informed and accountable education decision makers
- Local coalitions linked to state and federal arts and arts education policy work
- Nimble, efficient, service-orientated communications infrastructure
- High visibility coordinated media campaign rolled out

GOAL 4

Funding policies of public and private funders support and align with vision and mission of this plan.

Arts for All is supported by the Pooled Fund, established in 2004 with a \$500,000 gift from the Entertainment Industry Foundation (EIF) and fostered by the leadership of Sony Pictures Entertainment. The Pooled Fund, which supports technical assistance training and key components of districts' plans, has gained momentum and attracted more partners. Close to \$1.5 million has been committed, matched by \$1.5 million from participating school districts.

Pooled Fund members have a strong commitment to *Arts for All* and have increased their support over the years. In some cases members have taken ownership of aspects of *Arts for All*. Warner Bros. Entertainment, for example, has created Burbank Arts Education Foundation, a permanent endowment fund to support arts education in the Burbank Unified School District.

Pooled Fund members for 2006-07 include Boeing, The Getty Foundation, The James Irvine Foundation, The Jewish Community Foundation, JPMorgan Chase Foundation, The Rosalinde and Arthur Gilbert Foundation, Sony Pictures Entertainment, The Target Corporation, The Thelma Pearl Howard Foundation and Warner Bros. Entertainment.

In 2003, the Arts Commission changed its Organizational Grant Program guidelines to include a requirement for arts organizations applying for funding to demonstrate how their education program meets the Visual and Performing Arts Standards for California Public Schools and requires matching funds from school districts for school-based projects.

Arts for All has now become a national model. In spring 2007 Americans for the Arts asked L.A. County Arts Commission to testify before Congress in support of \$53 million in funding for arts in education programs of the U.S. Department of Education and to request the department to collect much needed data on the status of arts education nationally. The Arts Commission's representative, Director of Arts Education Ayanna Hudson Higgins, was the sole arts education witness to appear before the panel.

ARTS FOR ALL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Rita Hadjimanoukian, *Deputy, Supervisor Michael Antonovich*
Janice Pober, *Senior Vice President, Corporate Social Responsibility, Sony Pictures Entertainment*
Dr. Darline P. Robles, *Superintendent, Los Angeles County Schools*
Laurie Schell, *Executive Director, California Alliance for Arts Education*
Mark Slavkin, *Vice President of Education, Music Center*
Gail Tierney, *Senior Deputy, Supervisor Don Knabe*
Hope Warschaw, *Commissioner, Los Angeles County Arts Commission*
Laura Zucker, *Executive Director, Los Angeles County Arts Commission*

ARTS FOR ALL STAFF

Ayanna Hudson Higgins, *Director of Arts Education, L.A. County Arts Commission*
Sofia Klatzker, *Arts Education Manager, L.A. County Arts Commission*
Kimberleigh Aarn, *Arts for All School District Manager, L.A. County Arts Commission*

This report can be downloaded at www.lacountyarts.org.